



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ALASKA GAME REGULATIONS ARE REVISED

Changes in the Alaska Game Law regulations for hunting, sport fishing, and trapping in the Territory were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton. The 1957-58 rules become effective on July 1.

The following items are of particular interest to sportsmen:

Northern pike, for the first time, will be classified as a game fish and the taking of this species will be subject to regulation.

No change has been made in the season dates and bag limits for grouse and ptarmigan.

A long-standing open season on hawks, owls, and golden eagles is being rescinded because of its doubtful value. These birds may still be killed, however, when found committing damage to fish, other wildlife, and domestic birds and mammals.

The deer season in all of Alaska will be increased by four days.

A year ago, the Territory was divided into 26 geographical "units" for purposes of wildlife management and enforcement of regulations. These units were established after the Alaska Game Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service had given consideration to wildlife habitat, proximity and density of population centers, normal occurrences of game in given areas, and probable hunting pressures.

The season for moose has been extended 10 days in Unit 1 where the principal hunting area is the Stikine Valley, available only to a small number of hunters. A winter season has been provided in Unit 5 where the moose population is now large enough to permit the additional hunting. In the northern portion of Unit 14, 10 additional days of moose hunting will be allowed. This will permit a greater kill of moose which, during the winter months, come out of the hills and into the railroad area where significant numbers become victims of passing trains.

As the result of a study which indicated that a larger harvest of caribou could be taken generally in the area south of the Arctic Circle, except the Alaska

Peninsula, the bag limit for that area has been increased to 3. North of the Arctic Circle where the caribou population is sufficiently large, a continuously open season with no bag limit is provided. The unpredictable movement of caribou in this area permits the continuously open season and the economy of the Eskimo population is such that the natives must take caribou for food purposes whenever available.

A five-day open season for mountain sheep has been provided for the Kenai Peninsula in Units 7 and 15. The season on this species in this area has been closed for many years but during that time the population has increased to the point where the short open season now is warranted.

A declining population of brown and grizzly bears on the Alaska Peninsula necessitates a shortening of the season for Unit 9 and a portion of Unit 8. The opening date in these areas has been set back to November 1 to reduce the fall hunting pressure.

Printed copies of the regulations as amended will be available soon at the Alaska headquarters of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Juneau or from local enforcement offices throughout the Territory. The 26 geographical divisions of the Territory, known as Wildlife Management Units, are defined in the new publication.

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